Heavy rain set to bring disruption

18 December 2012 - Forecasters at the Met Office are predicting another spell of very wet and windy weather over the next few days, with South West England particularly at risk.

The Met Office and the Environment Agency are advising the public to stay aware of the latest forecasts and warnings, and be prepared for possible travel disruption and flooding as the rain falls onto already saturated ground.

The first spell of persistent, heavy rain is expected to affect South West England in the early hours of Wednesday morning, and it will become increasingly windy. The rain will slowly spread across many parts of the country during Wednesday, with some heavy bursts in places.

Further heavy downpours are expected across South West England and through the Midlands later on Wednesday and into Thursday, with rainfall amounts reaching 40 to 60 mm in places.

Andy Page, Met Office Chief Forecaster, said: "An active frontal system is expected to move eastwards across the UK over the next couple of days bringing rain to all parts of Britain.

"The Met Office has issued severe weather warnings which means that the public should plan ahead to take account of possible travel delays or disruption to their day to day activities. By thinking ahead the public can be more weather aware and better prepared for severe weather."

Craig Woolhouse, Head of Flood Incident Management at the Environment Agency, said: "Our teams have been out around the clock to minimise the risks and prepare for flooding. We urge people to keep up to date with the weather forecast and remain prepared for flooding in their area by signing up to receive free flood warnings and staying away from dangerous flood water."

As the rain moves across Scotland later on Wednesday and into Thursday it combines with strong southeasterly winds to bring the risk of coastal flooding to parts of eastern Scotland, with some snow falling over the higher mountains.

The public can keep up to date with the latest forecasts and warnings for their area on our UK forecast and mobile apps and through forecasts on TV and radio during this unsettled spell.

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